

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-01 SCCT-01 /078 W

----- 126006

R 100915Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3421

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0578

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET

SUBJECT: ERITREA - CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

1. SINCE LAST SHOOT-OUT (JUNE 21), ASMARA HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET NOTWITHSTANDING CONTINUED RUMORS OF ELF/PLF PLANS FOR RAINY SEASON OFFENSIVE. NEVERTHELESS THE EDGINESS OF THE POPULACE WAS DEMONSTRATED ON AFTERNOON OF JULY 8 WHEN UNEXPLAINED BURSTS OF SMALL ARMS FIRE HEARD FOR ABOUT FIVE MINUTES IN CENTER OF TOWN PRECIPITATED A MASS FLIGHT HOMEWARDS. I DROVE ABOUT TOWN TO SEE THIS, AND HAVE RARELY WITNESSED A MORE RAPID CLEARING OF THE STREETS. ASIDE FROM THIS, CONGEN DOES HAVE INITIAL REPORTS OF SUBSTANTIAL FIGHTING BETWEEN INSURGENTS AND ARMY UNITS SOME 18 TO 20 KLMS NORTH OF ASMARA IN DIRECTION KEREN.

2. INSURGENTS MADE PRESENCE FELT IN ASMARA LAST WEEK WHEN TWO
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ALLEGED INFORMERS WERE MURDERED BY ELF TRIGGERMEN. ONE WAS A FEMALE

EMPLOYEE OF A FLOWER SHOP LOCATED VERY NEAR WELL GUARDED TELE-COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE. ASSASSIN REPORTEDLY WALKED CALMLY IN, DREW PISTOL AND SHOT GIRL, THEN WALKED OUT AND VANISHED INTO NORMAL WORKDAY CROWN ON MAIN STREET. OTHER VICTIM WAS ATO ARAIA BELAI, ANNOUNCER AND COMMENTATOR IN TIGRYNYA FOR RADIO ASMARA. BOTH REPORTEDLY GAVE INFORMATION TO AUTHORITIES WHICH RESULTED IN IMPRISONMENT AND SOMETIMES DEATH OF MANY INSURGENTS AND THEIR SYMPATHIZERS.

3. ON JULY 9, BG GETACHEW CONVENED VERY LARGE MEETING AT FORMER IMPERIAL PALACE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, AND CIVILIAN GOV'T, AT WHICH HE CONDEMNED THEM ALL FOR NOT ACTIVELY COOPERATING WITH CONSTITUTED AUTHORITY. HE URGED ALL TO WORK WITH GOV'T TO HELP ARREST ERITREA'S SERIOUS ECONOMIC DECLINE AND TO END THE INSURGENCY. HIS ATTITUDE REPORTEDLY WAS ARROGANT AND UNCOMPROMISING AND NOT LIKELY TO GENERATE THE SYMPATHY FOR AND COOPERATION WITH AUTHORITY THAT HE CALLED FOR.
SHERRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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